

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SA/DDI - Mr. Komer

DATE: 26 February 1959

FROM : ONE/NE -

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SUBJECT: ONE Comment on Memo for the NSC Planning Board on "Problems Illustrated by Recent Developments in the Near East and the Taiwan Straits," dated 25 February 1959.

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1. We have no substantive quarrel with this paper but we still feel that the whole thing is insubstantial. Its stated purpose is to present "several important types of problems" revealed by the operations last summer and fall. These problems never come clear:

(a) State wants to begin by saying that last summer's operations must be considered unique and no lessons can be drawn from them anyway.

(b) Para. 2 majority version seems to say that we ought to review our policy on the Off-shore Islands and this has been scheduled for April of 1959. The Budget-Treasury version talks about a problem (return to the mainland) which has nothing at all to do with last summer's operations.

(c) Quite a few people apparently do not believe (and rightly so in our opinion) that Para. 3 contains anything worth saying.

(d) The fact that the deployment of nuclear weapons has political impact was surely not unknown to us before last summer.

(e) We don't understand Para. 5 very well. If it means what we suspect, could the problem (again surely not a new one) be better stated in reverse: US military authorities must be aware that at all times and especially in limited operations maximum effective employment of their capabilities may be restricted by political decisions. (Perhaps we could get General MacArthur to do a detailed study on the subject.)

(f) Para. 6 is nothing more than an application of this same idea to the support function.

So what have you got?

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